

REMARKS

Claims 1-25, 47-58, and 74-85 which are all of the elected claims in the present application, stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the technical paper, "Event Relationship Networks: A Framework for Action Oriented Analysis in Event Management", by Thoenen et al.

Applicants note that the effective date of this technical paper is September 28, 2000. Applicants provide a declaration of prior invention under 37 C.F.R. 1.131 to establish invention of the subject matter of the rejected claims prior to the effective date of the technical paper on which the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) is based.

Applicants therefore respectfully request removal of the Thoenen paper from further consideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

The Application is deemed in condition for allowance and such action by the Examiner is urged. Should differences remain, however, which do not place one/more of the remaining claims in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to phone the undersigned at the number provided below for the purpose of providing constructive assistance and suggestions in accordance with M.P.E.P. Sections 707, 707.07(d) and 707.07(j) in order that allowable claims can be presented, thereby placing the application in condition for allowance without further proceedings being necessary.

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